

Borough of Shrewsbury



REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1969

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"Look to your health; and if you have it praise God and value it next to a good conscience; for health is the second blessing that we mortals are capable of; a blessing that money cannot buy."

Isaac Walton
"The Angler's Wish"

BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY

THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor A.H. Edwards (Chairman)

Alderman P.A. Bateman	Councillor B.G. Lingen
Alderman H.R. Beckett	Councillor C.D. Owen
Alderman J.F. Burgess	Councillor T.S. Pritchard
Councillor B.C. Baldwin	Councillor Miss F.M. Rogers
Councillor H.O. Farmer	Councillor T.G. Sharp
Councillor G.E. Hooper	Councillor D. Shaw
Councillor S.V. Jones	

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

A.C. Mackenzie, M.D., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector

#* C. Stanley, Cert. R.S.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors

- * J. Innes, Cert. R.S.A.S.
- * J.B. Jones, Cert. R.S.I.
- * D.C. Joyce, Cert. R.S.I.

Technical Assistant

L. Woodcock

Chief Clerk

F.R. Wootton

Clerk

C.D. Jones (Resigned 1st February)

Mrs. R.F. Owen (Appointed 24th February)

Abattoir Superintendent

- * A.G. Hunter, Cert. P.H.I.E.B.

Assistant Meat Inspectors

- * J.T. Griffiths, Cert. P.H.I.E.B.
- * N. Edge, Cert. R.S.I.

PART TIME OFFICERS

Meteorological Observer


A.S. Mumford

Public Analyst

J.G. Sherratt, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

* Qualified Meat Inspector.

Smoke Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.



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HEALTH CENTRE,
MURIVANCE,
SHREWSBURY.

July, 1970

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE
BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough for the year 1969.

As usual, the year has been one of steady if unspectacular progress in housing, provision of clean food and clean air. It is with regret that one notes the difficulty in which the shortage of solid smokeless fuel has put the Council in its pursuance of a clean air policy. Although it is not possible to continue the expected programme of smoke control areas, it is well known that new estates are being built with gas or oil central heating in the majority of the houses and that many conversions to central heating are being made in existing houses. In addition, the Council is pushing on with its own programme of Council house conversions to central heating and is providing central heating in all new old-people's dwellings. It may be fair comment that this policy is creating a headache for the Housing Manager in that the elderly people probably survive longer in better accommodation thereby decreasing the number of "re-lets" available to him.

Work on the Castlefields Redevelopment Area continues and has been discussed elsewhere in this report. It is hoped that administrative delays will not be too frustrating.

During the year a special effort was made to seek out Houses in Multiple Occupation, and bring those found up to a standard acceptable under the Housing Acts of 1957 and 1961. The houses should be fit in all respects in the matters of repair, stability, freedom from damp and natural lighting; artificial lighting, ventilation and heating must be adequate. Cooking facilities, hot and cold water and proper means for the disposal of waste water within each letting or on the same floor within a communal kitchen and personal washing facilities for each letting must be provided. One water closet should be provided for every three lettings, or eight persons whichever is the lesser. There shall also be provided a bath or shower with constant hot and cold water in a separate room in the ratio of one bath or shower to every eight persons or part of eight. This bathroom to be within the dwelling and conveniently accessible to each letting. Adequate food storage and refuse disposal arrangements and means of escape in case of fire are also dealt with as is overcrowding and the maintenance of those parts of the house in common use, i.e. stairs, landings, etc. It is recommended that the Chief Public Health Inspector be consulted before any works are commenced, in order that there be no misunderstanding. Advice is readily available on request. In all such premises inspected some work was found to be necessary. Overcrowding has not been a problem, but the state of decoration of some of the houses has been deplorable.

Co-operation has once again been excellent from other departments. The Public Health Laboratory has always been ready to help where bacteriological or virological problems have had to be solved and, as mentioned in the section on the National Assistance Acts (page 22) co-operation with the hospital service has been greatly appreciated. Once again, as your Medical Officer, I have been fortunate in not having

to deal with any serious outbreak of infectious disease. It is impossible to claim any credit for this, but one can only hope that by persevering with methods known to be effective, by constant watchfulness, and here I have the goodwill of the General Medical Practitioners of the Borough to thank, by health education and by maintaining a high level of immunity and good resistance among the population that such infection as does occur will not be unduly serious.

I have to thank the staff of the Health Department for their help and co-operation during the year.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient servant,

A. C. MACKENZIE.

GENERAL STATISTICS, 1969

Rateable Value of the Borough	...	...	...	...	£2,939,275
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£11,775
Area of the Borough (excluding water) in acres	...	...	...	...	9,317
Population (Registrar General's estimate, middle of 1969)	...	...	...	...	54,190
Persons per acre calculated on above population	...	...	...	...	5.8
Inhabited Houses (December 31st, 1969)	...	...	...	...	18,583
Live Births	<div><div>MaleFemale</div><div><div>{</div><div>Legitimate412412</div><div>Illegitimate2828</div><div>}</div></div></div> <div>Total</div>				880
BIRTH RATE per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	16.2
Stillbirths:	...	...	...	...	...
Number	...	...	...	...	18
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	...	...	...	...	20.0
Total Live and Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	898
Deaths	...	...	...	...	632
DEATH RATE per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	11.7
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	...	...	...	...	20
INFANT MORTALITY RATES					
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	...	...	...	...	22.8
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	21.8
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	36.0
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	...	...	...	...	17.0
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	...	...	...	...	13.6
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	...	...	...	...	33.4
MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortions)					
Number of deaths	...	...	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	128
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	Nil

WEATHER CONDITIONS

As in the past forty years, daily readings and weather recordings have been continued at the Climatological Station, which is approved by the Air Ministry and situated at Monkmoor Sewage Works.

The particulars regarding 1969 may be summarised as follows:-

Rainfall - The total rainfall was 26.55 inches, compared with 27.57, 24.19 and 32.17 in the previous years respectively.

The average rainfall over the last 40 years was 26.07 inches.

Sunshine - The number of hours of bright sunshine recorded was 1,328.4 hours, compared with 1,237.8, 1,439.7 and 1,214.2 hours in the previous years respectively.

The average sunshine over the last 40 years was 1,344.9 hours.

Temperatures - Extremes of temperature during the year were:

Warmest Day (Highest Shade Maximum), July 15th and 16th, 83°F.

Warmest Night (Highest Shade Minimum), July 19th, 65°F.

Coldest Day (Lowest Shade Maximum), February 15th and 17th, 31°F.

Coldest Night (Lowest Shade Minimum), February 16th, 12°F.

WEATHER STATISTICS—SHREWSBURY, 1969

1969 Month	Mean Barometric Pressure in Inches	Air Temperature in Shade °F					Sunshine in Hours			Rainfall in Inches			
		Mean Maximum	Highest Maximum and Date	Mean Minimum	Lowest Minimum and Date	Mean Tempera- tures	Most Sunshine in one Day	Daily Means	Total Hours	No. of Rainy Days	Greatest Fall in One Day	Total Rainfall	
Jan.	29.770	46.6	55° on 21st 22nd and 23rd	37.2	26° on 6th and 7th	41.9	7.1 on 31st	1.29	39.9	18	.45 on 20th	1.94	
Feb.	29.899	38.2	46° on 11th and 13th	28.2	12° on 16th	33.2	7.5 on 8th	1.44	40.5	22	.37 on 21st	2.44	
Mar.	29.987	42.7	54° on 31st	32.4	21° on 7th	37.6	10.5 on 8th	1.71	53.1	14	1.45 on 12th	2.51	
April	30.016	54.2	69° on 8th and 9th	36.2	27° on 3rd	45.2	11.8 on 6th	6.23	186.9	13	.44 on 25th	1.65	
May	29.854	59.2	67° on 22nd	45.4	35° on 1st	52.3	10.1 on 22nd	4.05	125.7	27	1.19 on 5th	5.95	
June	30.037	66.3	77° on 14th	47.1	37° on 5th and 6th	56.7	15.3 on 9th	7.45	223.5	12	.14 on 16th and 17th	.66	
July	30.192	73.3	83° on 15th and 16th	54.5	45° on 4th and 30th	63.9	14.6 on 30th	7.45	231.1	6	1.13 on 28th	1.51	
Aug.	30.192	67.8	79° on 8th	54.7	45° on 29th	61.3	13.1 on 7th	4.69	145.6	12	1.15 on 11th	3.00	
Sept.	30.084	62.7	69° on 3rd	49.3	31° on 30th	56.0	9.9 on 22nd	2.88	86.5	8	.34 on 12th	.81	
Oct.	30.164	61.2	73° on 9th	49.7	41° on 10th	55.5	7.8 on 24th	2.49	77.1	6	.17 on 19th	.35	
Nov.	29.722	46.9	61° on 2nd	36.7	24° on 29th and 30th	41.8	8.0 on 8th	2.90	87.1	17	.69 on 16th	3.76	
Dec.		43.3	52° on 7th and 21st	33.2	25° on 1st	38.3	6.2 on 4th	1.01	31.4	15	.26 on 15th and 20th	1.97	
									1,328.4				26.55

VITAL STATISTICS
1969 AND PREVIOUS DECADE

Year	Population (estimated) each year by Registrar General	Births		Deaths			
		Number	Rate per 1,000 Population	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages	
				Number	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Number	Crude Rate Adjusted
1959	48,640	806	16.6	14	17	528	10.8
1960	49,250	786	15.9	13	16	513	10.4
1961	49,810	877	17.6	26	30	590	11.8
1962	50,120	869	17.3	23	26	602	12.0
1963	50,710	902	17.8	12	13	627	12.3
1964	51,130	962	18.8	17	18	579	11.3
1965	51,670	949	18.4	23	24	591	11.4
1966	52,450	898	17.1	12	13	641	12.2
1967	53,870	947	17.6	24	25	573	10.7
1968	53,760	949	17.7	20	21	692	12.9
1969	54,190	880	16.2	20	23	632	11.7

POPULATION

The Registrar General's estimate of the home population of Shrewsbury for 1969, including members of the armed forces stationed in the area, was 54,190, compared with 53,760 in the previous year.

BIRTHS

The number of live births in 1969 was 880, compared with 949, 947 and 898, in the previous years respectively.

The crude birth rate was 16.2 per 1,000 population, compared with 17.7, 17.6 and 17.1 in the previous years respectively.

Applying the comparability factor provided by the Registrar General, the adjusted birth rate becomes 15.6.

The 880 births may be analysed as follows:-

	Legitimate	Illegitimate	
Male	412	28	880
Female	412	28	

A comparison of the adjusted birth rate between Shrewsbury and the rate for England and Wales is as follows:-

	Rate per 1,000 Population Live Births
England and Wales	16.3
Shrewsbury	15.6

Illegitimate Births

There were 56 illegitimate births, compared with 81, 73 and 62 in the previous years respectively.

The illegitimate birth rate was 1.03 per 1,000 population, illegitimate births being a percentage of 6.4 of the total live births.

Stillbirths

There were 18 stillbirths, compared with 17, 11 and 15 in the previous years respectively.

The stillbirth rate was 0.33 per 1,000 population, the stillbirths being a percentage of 2.0 of the total births.

CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1969

CAUSES OF DEATH	NET DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT												
	Male	Female	under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75 and over
	320	312	15	5	3	3	6	5	13	33	110	185	254
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm Buccal Cavity, etc.	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm Oesophagus	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm Stomach	8	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	6	3
Malignant Neoplasm Intestine	8	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	2	4
Malignant Neoplasm Larynx	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	36	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	18	9	11
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	4	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
Malignant Neoplasm Prostrate	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Leukaemia	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Other Malignant Neoplasms	14	24	—	—	1	1	—	—	3	8	10	6	9
Diabetes Mellitus	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	2
Ayitaminoses, etc.	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Other Endocrine, etc. Diseases	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Anaemias	2	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
Mental Disorders	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Meningitis	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	1	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	3
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	1	—
Hypertensive Disease	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	4	2
Ischaemic Heart Disease	69	67	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	25	43	61
Other Forms of Heart Disease	4	10	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	2	9
Cerebrovascular Disease	50	66	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	10	36	64
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	10	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	16
Influenza	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	—
Pneumonia	16	25	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	13	23
Bronchitis and Emphysema	26	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	15	12
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	3
Peptic Ulcer	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2
Appendicitis	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	3	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	2	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	1	—
Hypeplasia of Prostrate	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2
Diseases of Musculo-Sketetal System	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3
Congenital Anomalies	2	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	4	5	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Motor Vehicle Accidents	8	3	—	—	—	1	2	1	1	—	4	2	—
All Other Accidents	6	8	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	3	1	8
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	2	6	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	2	2	—

DEATHS

The number of deaths during the year was 632, compared with 692, 641 and 591 in the previous years respectively.

Of the 632 deaths, 320 were males and 312 females.

The crude death rate was 11.7 and, by applying the comparability factor provided by the Registrar General, the adjusted rate was 11.8.

A comparison between the adjusted death rate of Shrewsbury and the rate for England and Wales is as follows:-

	Death rate per 1,000 population
England and Wales	11.9
Shrewsbury	11.8

Of the 632 deaths, 439 persons were 65 years of age or over.

If the main causes of death are grouped, it will be seen that 520 of the 632 deaths can be allocated to four groups as follows:-

1. Heart disease	163
2. Other diseases of the Circulatory System including Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	139
3. Cancer (including Leukaemia)	131
4. Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other Respiratory Disease, including Pulmonary Tuberculosis	87

There were 8 deaths from suicide and self-inflicted injuries and 11 from motor vehicle accidents.

Of the child population, there were 20 infant deaths (under one year of age), and 6 deaths of children one to fourteen years of age.

Causes of death are analysed in the table on page 12.

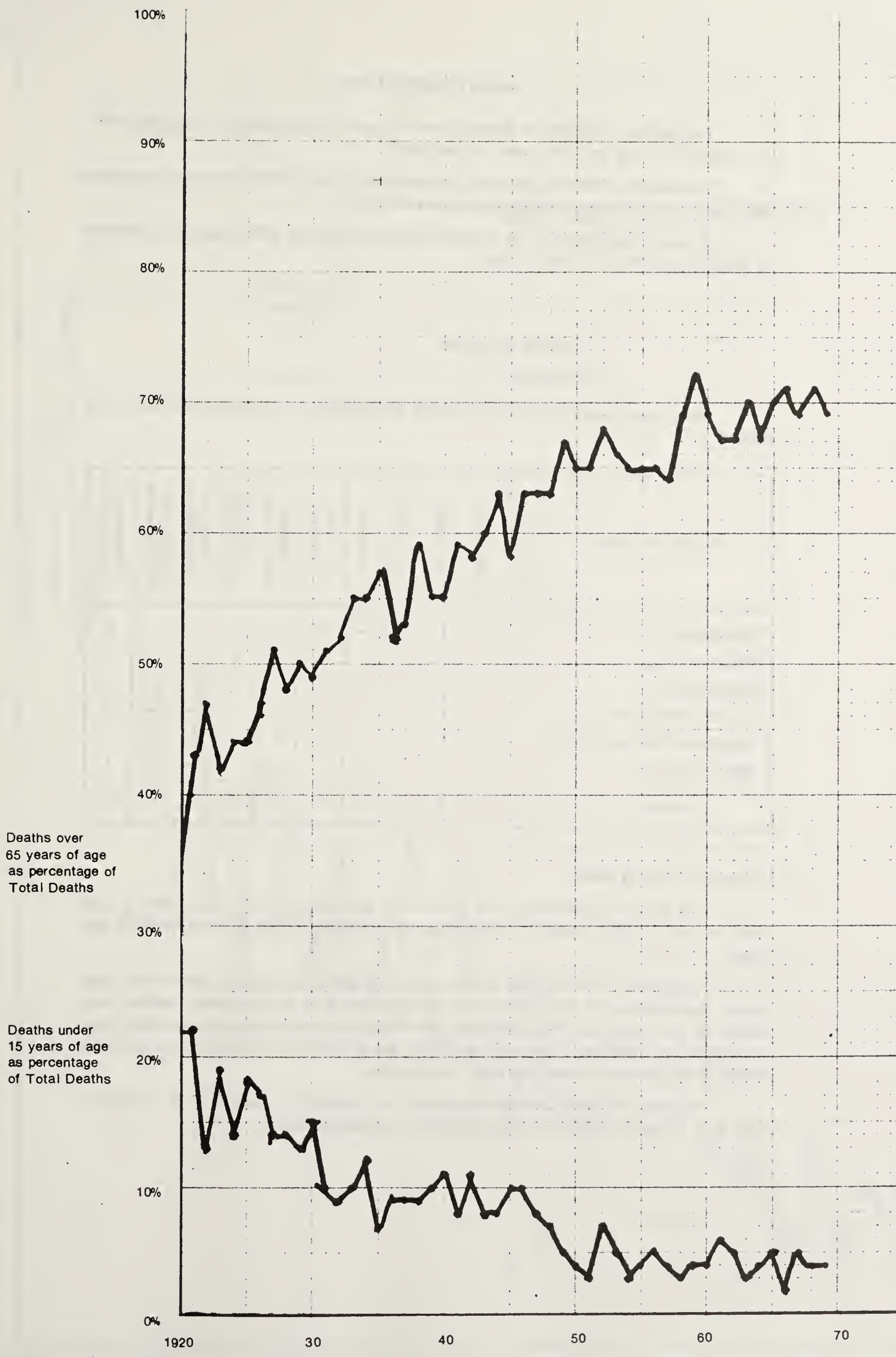
The graph on page 15 shows the percentage of the deaths in the Borough of those under 15 years of age and those over 65 years of age since 1920. The proportion of deaths which occurred over 65 years of age has increased from 34% to around 70%.

Looking at the last column in the table "Causes of and Ages of Death during the Year 1969" on page 12 covering deaths in the 75 and over age group, it will be seen that cardiac and cerebrovascular diseases predominated on the death certificates. These deaths could be put down to natural ageing processes, and the 23 deaths from pneumonia could almost also be considered in this category. There were 32 deaths attributed to cancer in various sites and one suspects that these deaths were not greatly hastened by these growths. The tumours were probably slow growing and showed little malignancy. There were 8 deaths attributed to other accidents in this group and no doubt most of these were in people who had histories of dizziness and the accidents precipitated the end of their failing lives. It is noted that the line below ("Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries") shows a nil return for the 75 and over age group. Presumably those with the urge to commit suicide have succeeded before reaching this great age and although one comes across many elderly people who seem extremely miserable or who put up with a life which one would think should make them sufficiently miserable to consider putting an end to it, it is surprising what a fight most of this age group make to keep alive. Perhaps they consider reaching a century as something really worth achieving.

The lower line of the graph on page 15 shows a decline in the percentage of deaths under 15 years of age as a percentage of the total deaths and for the last five years has fluctuated at around 3%. Of these deaths this year 15 out of 26 were

under 4 weeks of age (see Infant Mortality table on page 16). Of the others 2 died from pneumonia, one from intestinal obstruction and hernia, two from malignant neoplasms and one from leukaemia. All of these were deaths which future medical progress may be able to prevent.

Fluctuations in annual returns from a town the size of Shrewsbury should not be considered to be of great significance, but the increase in the lung cancer rates during the year is worth a comment. There were 43 deaths from this disease - 36 males and 7 females - and 23 of those deaths were in persons under 65 years of age. These figures compare unfavourably with the average over the last five years of 25 deaths. This should serve as a warning to cigarette smokers.



INFANT MORTALITY

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 20, compared with 20, 12 and 23 in the previous years respectively.

The Infantile Mortality Rate was accordingly 23 per 1,000 live births, compared with 21, 13 and 24 in the previous years respectively.

A comparison between the Infantile Mortality Rate of Shrewsbury and the rate for England and Wales is as follows:-

	Per 1,000 live births
England and Wales	18.0
Shrewsbury	22.8

These deaths are analysed by causes and duration of life in the accompanying table:-

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 24 hours	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 month and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Prematurity	5	3	1	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	9
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Meningitis	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	-	2	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
Congenital Malformations	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	4
Other Causes	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Totals	6	5	4	-	-	15	2	2	-	1	20

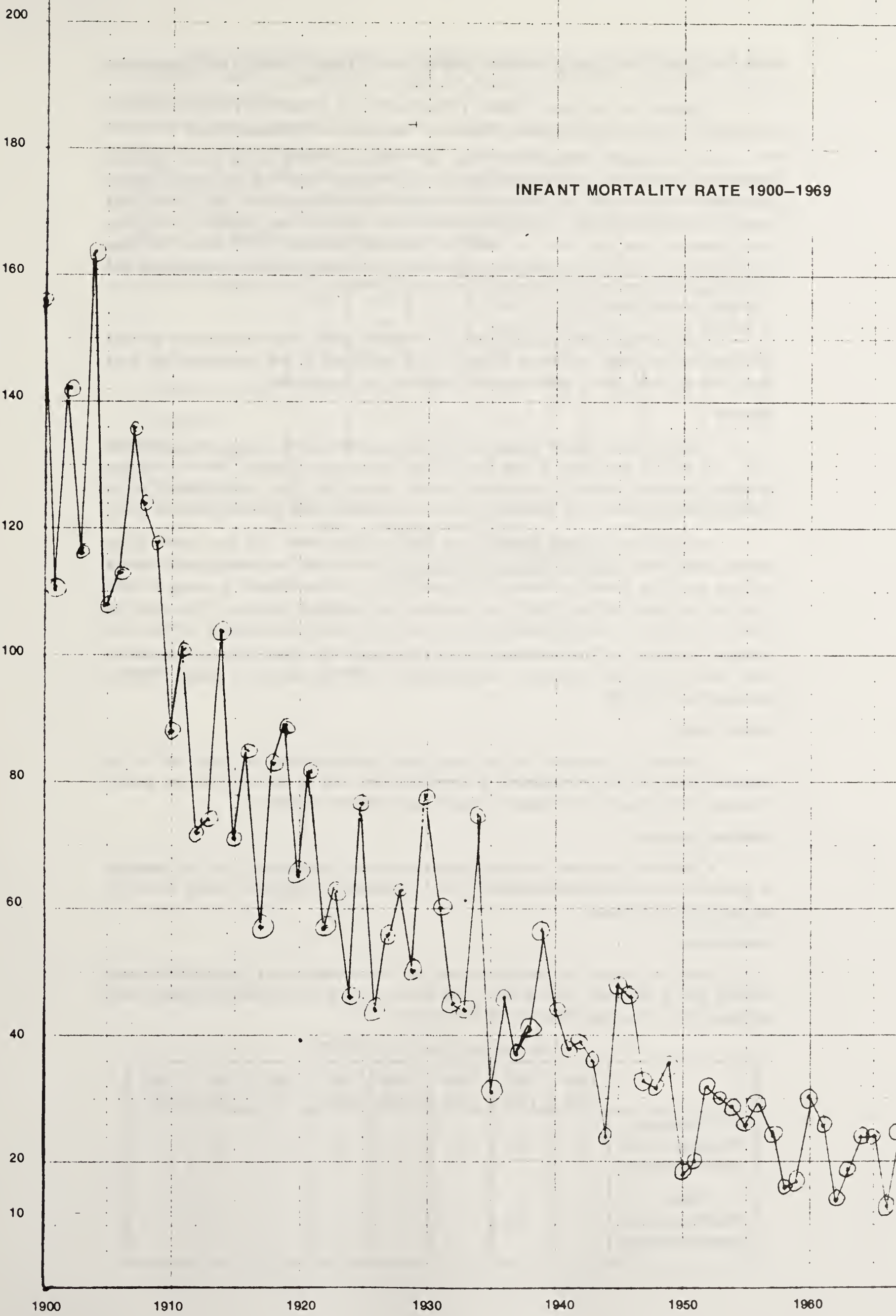
Perinatal Mortality Rate

The perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week of age combined per 1,000 live and stillbirths) was 33.4 compared with 23.0 for England and Wales.

The Infant Mortality Rate as shown in the graph on page 17 shows the usual annual fluctuations on the continuous improvement, and one wonders whether the bottom of the curve has been reached. The Perinatal Mortality Rate has often been considered to be a more accurate guide as many stillbirths might well have been deaths from prematurity had they been born earlier.

Absence of infant deaths attributable to haemolytic disease of the newborn must give great satisfaction to obstetricians and paediatricians.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE 1900-1969



PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

A glance at the table "Monthly Notification of Infectious Diseases, 1969" shows that the population has been relatively free of the notifiable infectious diseases.

An outbreak of influenza of type "A" (Asian or Hong Kong) virus exploded in the area at Christmas. Very few cases appeared before Christmas and shops, postal and other services were not affected until after the festive season. The illness was severe (four deaths before the end of the year) and relapses were common. Recovery was generally slow and many of those who had what seemed a mild attack and who "soldiered on" took many weeks to recover their normal vitality. As most of the influenza cases took ill in January and February 1970, a further account will be in next year's Annual Report.

Some of the Corporation indoor and outdoor staff were inoculated against influenza in November and these showed about two-thirds of the amount of lost time during the epidemic when compared with those not so inoculated.

Measles

It will be seen that an outbreak of measles started in the summer and continued until the end of the year. It has been noted in previous Annual Reports that the accepted measles pattern of alternate measles years and clear years seems to be changing and outbreaks are becoming longer with shorter clear periods between them.

Immunisation against measles has had a stormy start, but now seems to be getting under way, and it would not be surprising to find that the average notification over the next five years is considerably lower than the present level. It seems to take three to five years for the effect of an immunisation campaign to show. This effect is shown in the table "Average Notification of Various Infectious Diseases in Five Year Periods" on page 19. The asterisks showing the period in which immunisation campaigns were effectively mounted - e.g. diphtheria 1939-43, whooping cough 1948-50, poliomyelitis 1956-58.

Scarlet Fever

A change of character of the haemolytic streptococcus may have led to the reduced incidence and seriousness of Scarlet Fever, and it has not been so urgent a matter in this country to produce a vaccine against this organism.

Infective Jaundice

A decrease is shown in the notification of Infective Jaundice, with an absence of the disease in the summer months. This is assumed to indicate a latent period in the cycle of the disease.

Tuberculosis

Only four cases of respiratory and two of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year. Two deaths - one elderly man and one elderly woman - were reported. The following table may be of interest.

Average over Five Year Periods								
	1930 1934	1935 1939	1940 1944	1945 1949	1950 1954	1955 1959	1960 1964	1965 1969
Notifications Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary	41	39	60	35	29	22	14	9
Deaths Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary	21	20	18	17	10	3	2	2

There has been a gradual population increase from 31,000 to 54,000 during this period, which of course means that the reduction per 1,000 is even more than is shown by the table.

The causes of the reduced incidence of notification include better living conditions, better treatment of infectious tuberculosis, vaccination with BCG., pasteurisation of milk and the eradication of affected bovines. Statistics from previous Annual Reports show a drop in the percentage of cows killed at the Borough Public Abattoir which were tuberculous and condemned as such from approximately 50% up to 1956 to 7% in 1960 and less than 1% from 1963.

Average Annual Notification of Various Infectious Diseases in Five Year Periods

	1930 1934	1935 1939	1940 1944	1945 1949	1950 1954	1955 1959	1960 1964	1965 1969
Measles	NYN	NYN	248	257	322	444	318	*280
Whooping Cough	NYN	NYN	72	* 40	102	46	41	8
Diphtheria	15	*37	33	3	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	61	80	72	48	35	37	12	8
Poliomyelitis	1	1	1	2	3	* 3	-	-

- NYN - Not yet notifiable.
- * - Period in which immunisation
Campaigns effectively mounted.

MONTHLY NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1969
(EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS)

<i>Month</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever</i>	<i>Measles</i>	<i>Whooping Cough</i>	<i>Infective Jaundice</i>	<i>Dysentery</i>	<i>Meningococcal Infection</i>	<i>Food Poisoning</i>
January	—	20	—	1	—	1	—
February	1	11	—	1	—	—	—
March	1	—	—	3	1	—	—
April	3	—	—	2	—	—	—
May	—	10	—	2	—	—	—
June	1	17	1	1	3	—	—
July	—	16	—	—	4	1	—
August	—	16	—	—	2	—	—
September	—	8	—	—	—	—	1
October	—	16	—	—	—	—	1
November	1	9	—	2	—	—	—
December	1	13	—	—	—	1	1
Totals	8	136	1	12	10	3	3

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1969

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	Number of Cases Notified											Total Cases removed to Hospital
	At all ages	At Ages—Years									Age Unknown	
		Under 1	1 to 2	3 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 & up-wards		
Measles	136	4	40	37	53	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	10	1	1	1	5	1	1	—	—	—	—	9
Scarlet Fever	8	—	1	—	3	2	1	1	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice	12	—	—	—	1	—	2	4	2	2	1	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tetanus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Meningitis	3	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3
Acute Encephalitis:-												
Infective	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post Infectious	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis:-												
Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leptospirosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	3	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	1
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plague	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anthrax	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhus Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Relapsing Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yellow Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	173	6	43	39	63	4	6	6	3	2	1	13

TUBERCULOSIS

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2–4 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5–9 ”	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10–14 ”	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15–19 ”	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20–24 ”	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25–34 ”	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
35–44 ”	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
45–54 ”	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55–64 ”	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65–74 ”	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
75 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	3	1	1	1	1	1	—	—

The Phthisis (Respiratory or Pulmonary Tuberculosis) death rate for the year was 0.04 per 1,000 population, compared with Nil in the previous year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 and 1951

Removal to suitable premises of Persons in need of care and attention.

It was found necessary to make one compulsory removal to hospital.

This statement gives little of the true picture with regard to persons, usually elderly, who are in need of but not receiving proper care and attention, Information about such people is usually brought to the notice of the department by General Practitioners, who may have failed to persuade their patients to enter hospital, Health Visitors, District Nurses, and even members of the public. The Public Health Inspectors are always on the lookout for these situations.

Over the years a useful liaison has been established between members of this Department, Hospital Consultants, General Practitioners and the various personal health and welfare services of the County Council. Many households are visited throughout the year, especially in the winter months, and it is only where the proffered services have been repeatedly refused that a Magistrates Order is obtained to move anyone. Usually, either a Home Help or relative can be utilised to help those who do not need hospital treatment. For those who do need hospital treatment they are after much persuasion, usually friendly, induced to go to hospital, and here the utmost co-operation is obtained from the hospital services and somehow or other a bed is always found.

In the case where an Order was used, the person in question is now living with relatives.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

The Engineer to the West Shropshire Water Board, Mr. J.H. Sabido, has kindly supplied the following information on the water supply of the town, accompanied by statistics of laboratory examinations carried out at Shelton Waterworks.

"The Board's Shelton Headworks have supplied the whole of the Borough's requirements, free of all restrictions, during the year 1969. The average daily quantity supplied amounted to 3,305,000 gallons, which was equivalent to 61.0 gallons per head per day, and the maximum daily quantity supplied was 4,112,000 gallons on 15th July, 1969.

Routine chemical and bacteriological analyses were carried out at Shelton on the water before and after treatment. The maximum and minimum results obtained from these examinations are given in the accompanying table.

During the year the practice of making routine chemical and bacteriological examinations of drinking water samples drawn from household supplies was maintained, 50 chemical and 120 bacteriological examinations were made from such samples, and all were found to be sterile. The water supply in general has consistently maintained the very high standard of purity demanded for water supplies in this country.

Progress continued on the large-scale extensions to the Headworks authorised under the Shrewsbury Water Order, 1962, and during the period under review the roofing over the existing Service Reservoir, and the reconstruction work to the existing Chemical House and Filters, reached the final stages of completion. The overhaul of one of the Intake Pump Units was satisfactorily completed, and the new pumps in the High Lift and Low Lift Pumping Stations were brought into commission. Progress was also made with the new Chemical House, the chemical silos were erected and the new chemical feeder units installed and ready for commissioning.

A number of mains extensions and renewals were carried out comprising:-

1,924 yards	3" diameter
1,276 yards	4" diameter
17 yards	6" diameter
43 yards	9" diameter

Total 3,260 yards i.e. approximately 1.85 miles.

The following number of communication pipes were connected to the Borough mains:-

232 No.	½" diameter
32 No.	¾" diameter
12 No.	1" diameter
5 No.	1¼" diameter

Total 281 No.

Monitoring for the estimation of radio activity in the air, river water, and final water, was continued during the year. The results obtained to date are within the accepted standards as laid down by the National Research Council."

Fluoride

The fluoride content of the town's Water Supply is estimated to be less than 0.02 parts per million.

The position as regards dwelling houses in the town as at the end of 1969 is as follows:-

Total number of houses	18,618
Total number of houses with Corporation piped water supply	18,598
Total number of houses without a Corporation piped water supply	20

RESULTS OF CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS, 1969

Bacteriological	ITEM	RIVER WATER UNTREATED		WATER AFTER FILTRATION AND STERILISATION	
		Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum
	Probable number of coliform Aerogenes Organisms per 100 mls.	18 +	18 +	Nil	Nil
	Probable Number of Bact. Coli Type 1 per 100 mls.	18 +	18 +	Nil	Nil
	Colony count per ml. at 37° C.	—	—	Nil	Nil
Chemical Analysis expressed in Milligrams per Litre	Colour (Hazenscale)	420	5	Nil	Nil
	pH	8.85	7.09	7.75	6.20
	Alkalinity (CaCO ₃)	126	20	104	8
	Chloride (Cl)	48	10	52	12
	Free and Saline Amonia	1.2	Nil	0.09	Nil
	Oxygen absorbed (3 hrs. at 37°C.)	13.92	0.92	1.2	0.12
	Permanent Hardness CaCO ₃)	52	2	74	19
	Total Hardness (CaCO ₃)	153	35	181	50
	Free Residual Chlorine	—	—	0.05	Nil
	Total Residual Chlorine	—	—	0.1	0.05

PUBLIC BATHS

The Quarry Swimming Pools were officially opened by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Mrs. G.I. Dyas, on the 23rd April, 1970, but swimming commenced in The Quarry Pool in December, 1968, whilst work was in progress on the modernisation of the existing pools. These baths, as mentioned in earlier reports of the Medical Officer of Health, having been in use for over 75 years, were out of date.

The completion of the whole project in August, 1969, has provided four pools:

Quarry Pool	110' x 42 feet
Priory Pool	82 x 32 feet (formerly the Long Plunge)
Claremont Pool	60 x 30 feet (formerly the Short Plunge)
Teaching Pool	32 x 22 feet

The Quarry Pool

The Quarry Pool is 33.33 metres long x 42 feet wide, 3 feet 6 inches deep at the shallow end and reaches 6 feet 6 inches at 60 feet from the shallow end and then descends at a gradient of 1 in 2 to 12 feet 6 inches at the deep end. Diving facilities comprise 1 metre and 3 metre aluminium spring boards with foot operated adjustable fulcrums and a fixed 5 metre board. Water sprays are ranged at the pool edge under the diving tower to ripple the water during diving competitions. The dimensions of the pool and the height of the boards are those recommended by the Amateur Swimming Association and both national and international swimming and diving competitions can be held in the pool. The pool is lined generally with glazed white faience tiles and non-slip tiles are incorporated in the end walls to a depth of 1 metre below water level to assist swimmers in racing competitions to touch-and-turn without slipping. The floor of the pool is divided into six lanes of equal width for racing with lines of dark blue tiles. These lines are broken at each end to indicate to swimmers that they are approaching the end of the pool; the pool floor in the whole of the turn area is covered with light blue faience tiles through which the broken dark blue lines continue.

The circulation of purified water is effected by a surface draw off circulation system which delivers water to one hundred and six 2 inch nozzles spaced at 12 inch centres down the centre of the pool floor and discharges it over weirs at water level. This system ensures even distribution of purified water and quickly rids the pool surface of contamination.

Priory and Claremont Pools

These are the original pools which were built in 1892/3. The modernisation entailed the reconstruction of the top of the walls and the promenades to each pool, and the opportunity was taken to incorporate surface draw off channels at the sides and to replace much of the old filtration plant pipework with new materials, an operation which was long overdue.

Racing lanes have been provided in the Priory Pool to enable competitive swimming and training to take place.

Teaching Pool

This pool is situated between Priory and Claremont Pools in the same pool hall, an arrangement which has found favour with families, swimming clubs and schools.

The depth of water is 2 feet 6 inches over the whole area of the pool and access is gained by steps which occupy the full width of the pool at one end.

Water Purification

The cleansing of the swimming pool water is achieved by coarse straining; by filtration to remove suspended matter; by chlorination to sterilize the water and by efficient circulation of the water through the pool.

The whole volume of water in the Quarry Pool is circulated once in 3 hours, in the Priory and Claremont Pool once in 4 hours and in the Teaching Pool once in 1½ hours.

Bathers have to pass through the shower and foot bath areas to reach the pools, and no spectators are allowed near the sides of the pools. These measures to avoid contamination, along with the water purification, have resulted in 32 satisfactory results from 35 samples.

Drainage, Closet Accommodation, Sewerage and Public Cleansing

The Borough Surveyor, Mr. R.W. Gibb, has kindly supplied the following information:-

“Main Drainage -

Number of existing houses connected to sewers	24
---	----

Number of new houses erected without connection to main sewerage system	Nil
---	-----

Extensions and Alterations - The Nobold Branch Sewer and the Ditherington Relief Sewer were completed during the year, and the Racecourse Lane Sewer was still in the course of construction at the end of the year.

The present position as regards sewage disposal in the town as estimated during 1969 is as follows:-

Total number of houses in the Borough	18,618
---------------------------------------	--------

Number of houses connected to Corporation Sewers	18,376
--	--------

Number of houses connected to independent sewage disposal works, e.g. cesspits, septic tanks	184
--	-----

Number of houses relying on earth, pail or chemical closets	58
---	----

Refuse Collection and Disposal

No alteration has been made in the collection of refuse beyond the alterations necessary to cope with the extension of newhousing development. The Borough continued to use the tip at Weeping Cross under an agreement with Atcham Rural District Council.”

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. C. Stanley, reports as follows:-

Complaints received during the Year

There were 506 complaints, and these were investigated in accordance with the following analysis:-

Nature of Complaint	Number Received
Housing Defects	44
Choked and Defective Drains and Sewers ...	62
Accumulations of Offensive Matter	11
Relative to Unsound Food	51
Verminous Premises:-	
(a) Bugs	3
(b) Rats and Mice Infestations	253
(c) Insects	31
Keeping of Animals and Poultry	5
Unsatisfactory Milk Supplies	3
Clean Air Act	16
Noise Abatement Act, 1960	7
Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960 ...	3
Miscellaneous	17
Total	506

Premises Inspected

The following summary indicates the number of inspections of various premises carried out during the year:-

NATURE OF INSPECTION	Number of visits	Unsatisfactory conditions remedied by verbal cautions
Dwellinghouses, under the Public Health Act ...	500	8
Business, premises under the Public Health Act ...	91	1
Dwellinghouses under the Housing Acts ...	991	2
Houses in Multiple Occupation	141	—
Caravans, Control of Development Act, 1960 ...	150	4
Factories Act, 1961		
Factories with mechanical power	172	5
Factories without mechanical power	7	1
Works of building construction	31	1
Outworkers' premises	—	—
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963		
Registered Premises	846	13
Non-Registered Premises	129	—
Shops Acts 1950 to 1965	352	—
Food and Drugs Act/Food Hygiene Regs		
Bakehouses	56	6
Butchers' Shops	228	25
Hospital Kitchens	4	—
Restaurant Kitchens	400	49
School Kitchens	63	2
Staff Canteens	27	—
Licensed premises	198	9
Market Stalls	313	29
Food Vehicles	65	1
Other Premises	572	51
Section 16 Premises—Sausage Manufacturers	53	4
Fish Frying Premises	61	6
Ice Cream Premises ...	105	5
Unfit meat and other foods	220	—
Sampling of Food and Drugs (other than milk)	106	—
Milk Sampling—Bacteriological	118	—
Chemical	6	—
Food Poisoning Investigations	5	—
Clean Air Acts	1,198	7
Noise Abatement Act, 1960	122	1
Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957	—	—
Pet Animals Act, 1951	35	—
Drainage—Inspection and Examination	674	3
Public Sewers	165	2
Septic Tanks and Cesspools	202	3
Watercourses and Ditches	107	2
Land and Tips	136	—
Water Supplies	40	—
Swimming Bath Water Sampling	79	—
Offensive Trades Premises	15	1
Verminous Premises		
Rats and Mice	479	4
Insects, etc.	182	—
Infectious Disease	44	—
National Assistance Acts	8	—
Agriculture Safety, Health and Welfare Regs. ...	56	—
Miscellaneous	552	—
TOTAL	10,104	245

Notices Served

Administrative action was taken during the year to secure abatement of nuisances and to enforce the appropriate statutory enactments as follows:-

SUBJECT OF NOTICE	Public Health Acts	Housing Acts	Offices etc. Act	Food and Drugs Act 1955	Factories Act, 1961	Shops Acts
Number of Informal Notices served	22	—	95	32	15	13
Number of Informal Notices complied with	22	—	60	26	13	7
Number of Informal Notices Outstanding (against Premises)	20	—	118	21	12	11
Number of Statutory Notices served	2	18	—	—	—	—
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	6	—	—	—	—	—
Number of Statutory Notices Outstanding (against Premises)	3	18	—	—	—	—
Number of Prosecutions ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Table A—Registrations and General Inspections

(1) Class of Premises	(2) Number of premises registered during the year	(3) Total number of registered premises at end of year	(4) Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection
Offices	33	289	59
Retail Shops	23	416	152
Wholesale Shops, warehouses	1	22	4
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens ...	5	84	55
Fuel storage depots ...	—	—	—
Totals	62	811	270

Table B—Number of Visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises

Total 843

Table C—Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises by Workplace

Class of Workplace (2)	Number of persons employed (2)
Offices	2,881
Retail Shops	2,792
Wholesale departments, warehouses	263
Catering establishments open to the public	765
Canteens	48
Fuel storage depots	—
Total	6,749
Total Males	2,706
Total Females	4,043

ANALYSIS OF UNSATISFACTORY CONDITIONS

	Number found	Number remedied
Lack of cleanliness	71	64
Overcrowding	7	3
Absence of thermometer or heating facilities	38	32
Inadequate ventilation	49	21
Unsatisfactory lighting	121	36
Inadequate or unsatisfactory sanitary conveniences	80	94
Inadequate or unsatisfactory washing facilities	61	78
Absence of drinking water	1	2
Inadequate clothing accommodation	15	17
Unsuitable or inadequate seating facilities	5	2
Seats for sedentary work	4	1
Inadequate eating facilities	3	2
Defective floors and staircases	99	55
Inadequately fenced machinery	11	7
Hoists and Lifts Regulations	21	4
Noise and vibrations	2	-
Dangerous conditions and practices	17	25
Prohibition of heavy work	1	1
Absence of adequate first aid facilities	28	18
Failure to notify fact of employment of persons	10	4
Absence of abstract of the Act	32	16
NUMBER OF INFORMAL NOTICES SERVED		95
NUMBER OF INFORMAL NOTICES COMPLETED		60

There were twenty notifiable accidents reported in Shrewsbury during the year. (An accident becomes notifiable if an employee is fatally injured, or is disabled from doing his usual work for more than three days).

The types of accident reported were as follows:-

Cause of Accident	Number of Cases
Vehicle in motion moved by power	1
Use of a hand tool	1
Fall on or from fixed stairs	7
Other falls from one level to another	1
Falls on the same level	1
Stepping on or striking against object or person	6
Handling goods	1
Struck by falling object	1
Unspecified in official code	1

The satisfactory relationships enjoyed with the majority of employers and employees were maintained, to the benefit of all concerned. Gradually, over the years, a better understanding of the relevant legislation is growing, and with it the realisation that good working conditions aid in bringing out the best in employees. The latter, too, are appreciative of the advice given, particularly on safety measures, and working environment has improved no end since the inception of the Act.

There remain, still, a few who barely comply with the stipulated requirements and we trust they will eventually learn something from the standards set by the more progressive and enlightened.

It is disturbing to find that guillotine machines are still being sold without guards. Such machines can be seen in retailers' showrooms, in spite of promises to withdraw these from display. Regulations, such as indicated in Section 20(3)(a) would be most helpful. (Under this Section, the Minister may make Regulations for securing health and safety).

There were no complaints or summary applications under the provisions of Section 22, and no interim orders were granted. (Section 22 empowers Magistrates' Courts and Sheriffs to make orders for putting down dangerous conditions and practices).

There were no exemptions issued during the year, and no exemptions in operation during the year.

Once again, I express thanks to the members of my staff for their conscientious work and invaluable assistance.

**SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED AT DWELLINGHOUSES AS A RESULT OF
STATUTORY AND INFORMAL NOTICES ISSUED**
(Number of premises, 26)

									<i>Number Complied with</i>
Defective drains ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Choked drains ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Insufficient closet accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Absence of proper sink ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Defective water closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Defective gullies ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Defective sink ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Defective sink waste pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Defective W.C. cisterns and fittings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Burst water pipes ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Insufficient water supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Defective soil pipes ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Dampness arising from:-									
Defective roofs ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Defective eaves-gutters	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Defective down-spouts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Defective brickwork and pointing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Defective damp-proof courses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Defective yard paving ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Defective chimney flues	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Galvanized metal dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Defective window-frames and sash-cords	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Defective floors ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Defective stairs ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Defective plaster to walls and ceilings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Defective doors ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Defective fireplaces and cooking ranges	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Defective wash-boilers ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Defective and dangerous chimney stacks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Defective and bulging external walls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Defective and bulging party walls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Filthy condition of premises ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Accumulation of manure or offensive matter	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Destruction of Rats and Mice

At the end of the year the number of premises under contract with the Corporation for disinfestation was as follows:-

Business premises ...	...	...	55
Private dwellinghouses	...	...	1

The Rodent Operative made 1,729 visits to premises in the course of his duties during the year.

FACTORY ACT, 1961

The following statistics, required under the provisions of this legislation, are appended:-

Part I of the Act

1. **Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	7	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	226	172	15	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	10	31	—	—
TOTAL	242	210	15	—

2. Cases in which **Defects** were found

Particulars .	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	15	12	—	10	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	16	12	—	10	—

Part VIII of the Act
Outwork (Sections 133 and 134)

NATURE OF WORK	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Packing hair pins ...	1	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	1	—	—	—	—	—

HOUSING

Building Progress during 1969

Houses erected by Local Authority	5)	211
Houses erected by Private Enterprise	206)	

Housing Statistics

1. Inspections of Dwelling houses during the Year

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 869

Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. 11

Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 39

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Services of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their offices 27

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year

Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 12

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

(a) By Owners 4

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners -

Nineteen houses, in a Clearance Area, were demolished during the year. Fifteen individual unfit dwellings, considered incapable of repair at reasonable cost, were subject to similar treatment.

A Closing Order was revoked in respect of a dwelling house made fit for human habitation.

The detailed survey of the Castlefields Improvement Area revealed two hundred houses, approximately, in such a state as to suggest demolition being the only remedy. It is intended to deal with the majority of these dwellings by Clearance Area procedure. (See separate section)

CASTLEFIELDS REDEVELOPMENT SCHEME

As mentioned in the Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1968 this scheme "New Life for an Old District", was mooted by Council, sold to the inhabitants by Councillors, and during 1969 preparations went forward with help and close co-operation from a team from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government led by Mr. G.M. Simms, Chief Executive Officer. A working party of Borough and Ministry staff was formed during the year and plans were exhibited in May 1969 for approval or further amendment. Official Representations of the Clearance Areas were placed before the Housing Committee and subsequently approved by Council early in 1970. A Compulsory Purchase Order was subsequently approved. The total area consists of the following:-

The Clearance Area

Houses (Total)	214 approx.
Houses (Unfit)	200 approx.
Shops (Total)	8
Shops with living accommodation	4
Shops with living accommodation (Unfit)	3
Public Houses	3
Total Dwelling Units	220 approx.
Commercial Uses	
Small Workshops	2
Others	Bakery and Club Lock up garaging for commercial vehicles

The Improvement Area

Houses	456 approx.
Private Flats	48 Located in 18 blocks
Council Flats	18
Shops (Total)	6
Shops with living accommodation	4
Public Houses	4
Total Dwelling Units	530 approx.
Commercial Uses	
Small Workshops	3
Larger Uses	Egg Packing Station, Furniture Depository
Public Buildings	Lancasterian School + Annexe Methodist Church All Saints Church + Church Hall Gospel Hall

Some information from the survey which was made of the area is of public health interest. Most of the property was built between 1860 and 1880, when the impact of the railway era was felt in Shrewsbury - the area is adjacent to the railway station - and apart from a small amount of in-filling and the clearance of a couple of the worst areas of small dwellings there has been little change in the area. Play space and parking are very limited in the area and all the roads are of insufficient width for modern traffic demands. A survey covering 97% of all properties was made to determine the physical condition of each property, to provide an inventory of necessary repairs and improvements as a basis for a planned programme of work and to obtain reasonably accurate estimates of the costs of repairs and improvements. As was expected, dampness was prevalent, affecting nearly all the clearance area properties and many of those in the improvement area. Roofs generally were fairly good and the state of repair, apart from the clearance area houses, was generally good.

Amenities were as follows (for the total area):-

Fixed bath or shower in separate room - Roughly one third of the dwellings are equipped with satisfactory bathroom facilities, and a very small proportion of properties have a bath which is not fixed in a separate room. Properties without bathrooms are distributed throughout the area but heavy concentrations are evident in the clearance area.

Toilets - Only about a quarter of the properties have satisfactory toilet facilities in that they possess an indoor water closet. Even though the majority of properties have external toilets the condition of these is generally good. Only in parts of the clearance area, where neighbouring properties share the same toilet, are conditions bad.

Hot Water Supply - The basic 5 point improvement grant standards require the provision of a hot water supply to (a) a fixed bath or shower, (b) a wash-hand basin, and (c) a sink. The information obtained relates only to the existence or otherwise of some form of appliance for the supply of hot water and is therefore incomplete. However, the facts available show that over $\frac{3}{4}$ of the dwellings have a source of supply of hot water. Those dwellings lacking such facilities are again generally situated in the clearance areas.

Food Storage Facilities - In only relatively few cases are the facilities for the storage of food satisfactory. The majority of dwellings have only an unventilated larder or cupboard although the increased use of refrigeration does tend to ameliorate this deficiency. However, the overall situation is that only about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the dwellings can be regarded as satisfactory.

Light and Power - For a dwelling house to be considered satisfactory in this respect each habitable room should possess either a power point, a gas point or a fireplace. Only about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the dwellings meet this requirement. The majority of those dwellings which are below this standard lack facilities for heating one or two rooms (usually bedrooms only) although in a few cases facilities are lacking in more than two rooms.

Fuel Storage Facilities - The survey does not reveal any problem in this respect. Most households have adopted some system suitable to meet their own particular needs.

As might be expected it has been found that the oldest properties are generally in the worst condition and state of repair. Tenanted houses show the lowest standard of maintenance and in the main lack more of the basic amenities than the owner-occupied houses, although there are a few notable exceptions.

Tenure of Properties - Slightly over 50% of the dwellings in the area are owner-occupied. The remainder are tenanted, the majority from private landlords. Although some tenanted properties are located sporadically throughout the area there is noticeable concentration in the clearance area.

Population Structure and Household Structure - These are shown in the accompanying tables:-

Old Age Pensioners	263
Other Adults	1,144
Under 17 years	284

One or Two Person Households	500
Three to Five Person Households	235
Over Five Person Households	7

The area has an ageing population mostly in small houses with very limited shopping and social facilities. Most of the houses are in terraces and small by modern standards and have small gardens, while a very large proportion open straight out on to a pavement. Many share paved backyards.

It has been the policy of this department to "list" houses for clearance which were considered unfit for human habitation and dangerous or injurious to the health of the occupants and which fell substantially below the accepted standards of the area. It was not surprising to find the results of the survey indicated that the houses which it was considered could not reasonably be brought up to acceptable standards were nearly all already listed.

It is envisaged that 200 (approximately) houses in the clearance area are to be demolished. Demolition is to be proceeded by building on two vacant areas of land and will be phased so that the occupants of the northern end of the clearance site can be housed in those houses and the occupants of the southern end of the clearance site will be housed in houses built on the vacant northern end of the site. Those who wish to stay in Castlefields can thus be rehoused very near to their former homes. It is intended to build terraced house each with a small private garden, well supplied with garages. The plan shows sixty three-storey, three-bedroomed, town houses and twenty two-storey, three-bedroomed houses, and six three-storey blocks of four flats each. There is also to be a group-dwelling scheme with a warden, of 30 one or two person flatlets. A shopping precinct with play space is adjacent to the group dwellings.

Factors considered for the improvement area consist of improvement of dwellings to a standard acceptable for 30 years future life and of the 530 dwelling units in the area, improvements were required as shown in the following table:-

	% of Total Dwellings in Improvement Area
Properties lacking bath or shower fitted in separate room	16%
Properties lacking hot water supply	16%
Properties lacking indoor toilet	39%
Properties lacking ventilated food store	63% *
Properties requiring some form of repair work	88%

* Roughly 50% of these dwellings have a refrigerator.

Environmental improvements, open spaces, one-way streets, off-street parking, rear access for houses, improved shopping and social facilities have been envisaged in the final plan and work on these, redevelopment of clearance areas and house improvements should take place side by side over the next six to seven years.

MUNICIPAL HOSTEL FOR MEN

During the year the standard of accommodation available has been improved, with new mattresses, separate lockers, and redecoration of part of the Hostel.

The purpose of the Hostel is not to provide a "doss-house" or a common-lodging-house, but to provide accommodation for single men who are either working or retired, and who enjoy a life of freedom and independence. The usual practice is for the occupants to clean and tidy their own cubicles, after which breakfast is cooked and eaten. During the morning and afternoon the working men are out and the retired lodgers can have the use of the living accommodation. In the evening large meals are cooked and eaten and a good proportion of the occupants sit in and watch television. Occasionally there may be some minor disturbance, usually at the weekend, but offenders are usually asked to leave as are those who persistently break the rules of the establishment.

The charges are 8/9d. per night or 48/-d. per week, and most of the occupants stay for long periods paying weekly. One man has been in the Hostel for 26 years.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

At the close of the year there were registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations:-

Dairies	6
Retail Purveyors of Milk	92

Turbidity Test (applicable to sterilised milk)

The seven samples proved satisfactory.

Phosphatase Test (a test applied to verify the efficiency of pastuerisation)

The fifty samples proved satisfactory.

Examination of Tubercle Bacillus

Cultural and animal tests were made on nine samples - all of which were negative.

Methylene Blue Test

One hundred and nineteen samples were subject to the Methylene Blue Test (an indicator of keeping quality), of which 24 were found to be unsatisfactory and 3 were declared void.

Brucella Abortus

Number of samples of raw milk examined	32
Number of positive samples found	2 (milk heat treated)

Ice Cream

Premises registered for sale and manufacture	1
Premises registered for sale only	193

Thirty six samples of ice cream were taken for bacteriological examination. The results are tabulated below:-

No. of Samples	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV
36	26	9	1	-

Food and Drugs Sampling

The 107 samples of food and drugs submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis comprised 94 foods (1 formal and 93 informal) and 13 drugs (all informal).

Some 102 were returned as genuine, and 5 (all foods) as not genuine.

An additional 10 "informal" samples of milk were tested for fat content on the testing machine at the Health Centre. Nine were found to be satisfactory.

Remarks on Samples returned as Not Genuine

1. Pork Sausage (Informal)

This was a sample of pork sausage containing sulphur dioxide preservative. (The Preservatives in Food Regulations, 1962 permit the use of sulphur dioxide as a preservative in pork sausage only if its presence is declared). No notice displayed. Vendor warned.

2. Tomato Juice Cocktail (Informal)

This was a sample of tomato juice cocktail in an opened, re-sealed bottle. in the juice was a large aggregation of yellowish/grey material, which consisted of mould spores and hyphae.

(No legal action, as material witness did not wish to appear in Court proceedings.)

3. Plain Cheese, Medium Fat (Informal)

This was a sample of cheese not conforming to the Cheese Regulations, 1965. According to Regulation 2(1), the sample had the characteristics of soft cheese. The fat content conformed to the description 'full fat soft cheese' as defined in Regulation 6(1)(a).

Vendor informed and labels altered accordingly.

4. Mincemeat (Informal)

This was a sample of mincemeat deficient in soluble solids to the extent of 3.5% and containing 62.7% soluble solids. The Food Standards (Preserves) Order prescribes a minimum of 65.0% of soluble solids for mincemeat.

Verbal notice to producer.

5. Raspberry Flavour Vinegar (Informal)

This was a sample of Raspberry Flavour Vinegar not complying with Article 4(3)(b) of the Labelling of Food Order, 1952, which requires the appropriate designation of each ingredient to appear on the label of a compound food. The ingredients were not listed on the label of this sample.

Informed by producer that this sample was old stock, as the label had been amended in 1966.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

	No. of Premises	No. fitted to comply with Regulation 16	No. to which Regulation 19 applies	No. fitted to comply with Regulation 19
Bakehouses	6	6	6	6
Butchers' Shops	40	39	40	40
Bread and Confectionery	9	9	9	9
Fish Frying Premises	13	13	13	13
Grocers	92	92	92	92
Greengrocers	6	6	6	6
Hospital Kitchens	8	8	8	8
Ice Cream Manufacturers	1	1	1	1
Licensed Premises	104	104	104	103
Restaurant Kitchens	60	60	60	60
School Canteens	31	30	31	30
Staff Canteens	17	17	17	16
Supermarkets	10	10	10	10
Sweet Confectionery	48	48	17	17
Warehouses	10	10	10	10
Wet Fish	8	8	8	8

Regulation 16 refers to the provision of suitable and sufficient wash-hand basins, and adequate supply of hot and cold water, soap, nail-brushes and drying facilities for the use of all persons engaged in the handling of food.

Regulation 19 relates to the provision of suitable and sufficient sinks, or other facilities, for washing food and equipment. The appropriate water supply must be provided in each instance.

Poultry Inspection

Number of poultry processing premises within the district	2
Number of visits to these premises	67

Type of Birds Processed	Number Processed	Percentage Rejected as Unfit for Human Consumption	Weight Condemned as Unfit for Human Consumption
Turkeys	1,940	-	-
Ducks	433	-	-
Hens	6,678	1.06	173 lbs.
Broilers	4,176	-	-
Geese	121	-	-
Guinea Fowl	91	-	-

The inspection of these premises is carried out under the provisions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations. There is also, a Code of Practice which outlines the structural requirements and hygienic standards recommended in this type of business. In addition, the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, applies to the examination of poultry.

Unsoundness in poultry was again found to be relatively small.

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

Number of egg pasteurisation plants in district	Nil
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The following foodstuffs, being unfit for human consumption, were voluntarily surrendered for destruction:-

Bacon and Ham	1,079½ lbs.
Beef	197 lbs.
Beef, Corned	100 lbs.
Lamb	84 lbs.
Lambs Liver, Frozen	240 lbs.
Ox Kidney, Frozen	463 lbs.
Sausages	78 lbs.
Fish	61 lbs.
Cucumbers	132
Cauliflowers	216
Cherries	140 lbs.
Chestnuts	286 lbs.
Liquid Egg	28 lbs.
Preserved Goods	493 tins or jars
Frozen Food	4,819 packets

PUBLIC ABATTOIR

The Superintendent, Mr. A. G. Hunter, has provided facts and figures for the report of the year's working:

"With the introduction of mass selling in Supermarkets and stores of quality meat cuts, and the necessity for a clean attractive disease-free hygienically handled product from high standard abattoirs, the competition for such trade is keen.

During the year the Public Abattoir has steadily increased its efficiency and improved its standard to a high degree to attract trade from national and international meat handlers.

The men have become more accustomed to the new line system of slaughter, and although it takes a long time to become completely efficient, the signs are very encouraging.

Towards the end of the year, Urwick, Orr and Partners came into the Abattoir on a Works Study Assignment to:—

- (a) Prepare and introduce a more equitable wages structure for all operatives.
- (b) Determine the optimum size of the labour force, to improve the utilisation of labour and equipment.
- (c) Introduce statistics to enable Management to control their labour costs.

The anticipated throughput unfortunately did not materialise during the year, mainly because of the after effects of the Foot and Mouth epidemic, so that the early part of the year throughput fell to its very lowest ebb and for the first time in years men were being paid the guaranteed fall back wages, whilst up and down the country wholesale meat companies were going bankrupt as a result of shortage of livestock for slaughter, and Public Abattoirs in general were getting desperate about their income and massed huge deficits on running costs and overhead charges. However, in our case, throughput rallied somewhat, and by the end of the year we were kept busy having to work a lot of overtime to enable us to supply the wholesalers with carcass meat.

Costs however were continuing to rise and with wage awards and increased bank rate charges made operations more depressing financially.

I must report however, as I did last year, that there is still no increase in chilling facilities, without which our steady expansion is hampered, and there is no doubt that we could have added to our present list of wholesalers if hanging space had been available when required.

Two Bristol Carcass Saws were taken out of the line and one Best and Donovan Saw substituted, thus reducing by one the number of men employed on the line, and increasing our efficiency. This was necessary also to give a better sawing finish particularly over hard boned cows for export.

During the year our inedible offal and glands disposal was changed to another contractor for a much better service and price. There tends to be a greater demand at the moment for inedible offal for processing for animal foods.

The year also saw the introduction of our Veterinary Service to comply with our intention of being able to export all carcasses and offals of animals slaughtered in the Abattoir, thereby eliminating the difficulty of planning ahead whenever export was necessary.

Also, during the year, we had several meetings between the wholesale trade and the users of the Abattoir and representatives of the Chief Officers on matters ranging from proposed charges, throughput forecasts, inedible offal and who should handle it, hours of slaughter, quality of dressing and handling and cutting up space and refrigeration.

I attended with the Chairman of the Public Health Committee, Councillor A. H. Edwards, and officers, two meetings called by local authorities concerning Public Abattoirs, and the huge debts which were being incurred annually at the expense of the ratepayers. A very serious problem and one which begs a speedy answer, even if it means closure of many abattoirs and a severe restriction on the issue of new licences to people thinking of building new abattoirs. At these meetings it was pointed out that the facilities were much better at public than at private abattoirs, particularly on meat inspection and adherence to Public Health legislation.

During the year large quantities of meat were imported into the factory from several Continental and Scandinavian countries, for most of which we were called upon to act as Port Health Officials in examining and releasing for human consumption, after having broken the seal to open the container. To this end my Deputy and myself received telephone calls in and out of office hours from officials at the ports of Southampton, Dover and Newhaven respectively to receive and examine specified quantities of fresh meat from the continent.

The Meat Inspectors have as usual done an efficient and quietly effective job generally on all matters for which they are responsible.

The attached table gives statistics on condemned meat and offal."

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

(Figures in Brackets are for 1968)

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	16,287 (18,784)	7,287 (2,651)	883 (1,714)	75,904 (84,952)	44,494 (41,296)	— (—)
Number inspected	16,287 (18,784)	7,287 (2,651)	883 (1,714)	75,904 (84,952)	44,494 (41,296)	— (—)
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:						
Whole carcasses condemned	2 (3)	15 (18)	52 (66)	74 (108)	97 (69)	— (—)
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	5,553 (3,324)	3,624 (1,001)	85 (86)	7,211 (3,178)	1,586 (1,326)	— (—)
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tubercu- losis	34.4 (17.7)	49.9 (38.4)	15.5 (8.9)	9.6 (3.9)	3.7 (3.4)	— (—)
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcasses condemned	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	315 (218)	— (—)
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	— —	— —	— —	— —	0.71 (0.54)	— —
Cysticercosis:						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	64 (24)	14 (2)	— —	— —	— —	— (—)
Carcasses submitted for treat- ment by refrigeration	42 (16)	6 (—)	— —	— —	— —	— (—)
Generalised and totally con- demned	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)

Imported Meat and Offal

Beef received from other British Abattoirs	1 cwt. 38 lbs.
Beef received from Switzerland	4 tons 16 cwts. 66 lbs.
Beef received from France	13 tons 7 cwts. 74 lbs.
Beef received from Belgium	2 cwts. 28 lbs.
Ox Hearts (Home Killed)	58 lbs.

Diseased and unsound conditions found in the animals dealt with caused the detention and surrender for destruction of a total weight in carcasses and offal of 112 tons, — cwts , 11. lbs., details as follows:-

Carcasses and Parts	22 tons 2 cwts. 12 lbs. (20 tons 3 cwts. 88 lbs.)
Offal	89 tons 17 cwts. 111 lbs. (53 tons 13 cwts. 91 lbs.)

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